

**Remarks**

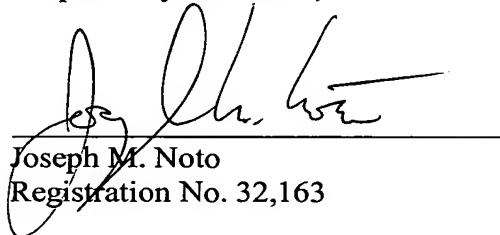
Entry of the foregoing in advance of the initial Office Action is respectfully requested.

By the present preliminary amendment, claims 1 and 27 have been amended to claim previously unclaimed subject matter. Support for these amendments is found in the specification on page 13, line 33 to page 14, line 2 by reference to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/748,518 (now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,627,882), which was incorporated by reference in its entirety. Support for the amendments can be found in U.S. Patent No. 6,627,882 in column 8, lines 17-55. Claims 4, 9, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 34 have been amended to establish antecedent basis with respect to amended claims 1 and 27.

Early allowance of the pending claims is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/23/03

  
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